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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Agence internationale pour le développement (AIDE)

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Founded in 1986 by a group of women and men of different nationalities, the Agence internationale pour le développement (AIDE) is a non-governmental humanitarian and development aid organization. It has held consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II) since 1993, and is represented at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as well as in the five regional economic commissions. It makes a modest contribution to the numerous actions undertaken by the United Nations specialized agencies and works tirelessly to eliminate all forms of racial, ethnic, political and religious discrimination.

AIDE has expanded geographically; it now operates in 17 countries with which it has signed letters of acceptance, headquarters agreements and other protocols of agreement (Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, India, Mali, Morocco, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Tunisia).

On 19 March 1998, AIDE, taking into account its international spread, established itself as the Fédération des agences internationales du développement, comprising 17 branches, 1,130 volunteers, 3,625 members and 124 member associations around the world.

The Fédération des agences internationales pour le développement serves as a coordinating mechanism for both individuals and associations by disseminating information and sharing experience in its fields of activity.

Thanks to its international reputation, it has been able to encourage the growth of partnership networks and the mobilization of new associations and the public at large.

It plays a decisive role in fostering the participation of international, national and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly in the human rights field, by providing them with all kinds of training and support designed to advise and inform them as to the actions to be undertaken and promoted.

Aims

The organization's aims are to:

(a) Organize campaigns on behalf of human rights and democracy;

(b) Work to integrate all segments of society into economic and social development;

(c) Organize information and prevention campaigns against AIDS and drugs;

(d) Provide food, clothing and/or medical assistance to persons in need;

(e) Participate in economic and social development projects in developing countries, particularly in the health, education, training, agriculture and emergency assistance sectors;

(f) Assist in the vocational and social integration of populations in difficult circumstances;

(g) Assist in the establishment of production units in the handicrafts sectors.

The Fédération des agences internationales du développement has as its aim to facilitate dialogue and exchanges of information and experience between its members, and to support the development and strengthening of associations having the same purposes, so as to arrive at common positions and actions with a view to establishing a network of associations that can develop synergies by implementing a programmatic platform.

As its activities are aimed at improving the social climate by encouraging the active participation of all segments of civil society, the Fédération des agences internationales du développement is concerned with: publishing and/or disseminating articles, magazines, books, audiovisual materials and newsletters on such subjects as fighting racism, poverty, drugs and AIDS; organizing meetings, conferences, campaigns and other events for the purpose of disseminating information; and promoting and encouraging exchanges of experience and information by every available means.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

7–12 August 1994 (Yokohama, Japan) — Tenth International Conference on AIDS (report in English and French);

12–15 October 1994 (Canada) — Conference on "The family: a bridge to the future";

16–17 January 1995 (New York) — Preparatory meeting for the World Summit for Social Development;

6–10 February 1995 (Paris, France) — "Audience Africa", held under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO), on the theme "Social Development: Africa's Priorities";

6–12 March 1995 (Copenhagen, Denmark) — World Summit for Social Development (report in French);

18–20 September 1995 (New York) — Forty-eighth annual Conference of NGOs;

14 November 1995 (Lyons, France) — Symposium organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Europe on "Globalization, State sovereignty and international cooperation: current stakes and scenarios for the future";

23–25 March 1996 (Lisbon, Portugal) — International conference on "Drugs: dependence and interdependence," organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP);

6–8 May 1996 (Vichy, France) — International symposium organized by UNESCO on "New partnerships for development: enterprises and non-governmental organizations";

10 May 1996 (Paris, France) — Seminar organized by the World Bank;

17 June 1996 (Paris, France) — Seminar organized by the World Bank;

13–17 November 1996 (Rome, Italy) — World Food Summit, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

23–25 March 1997 (Lisbon, Portugal) — International conference on drugs, organized by UNIDCP;

1–3 April 1997 (France) — International symposium organized by UNESCO on "The drug situation in sub-Saharan Africa";

16 May 1997 (Paris, France) — Meeting organized by UNESCO on "Associations for partnership: non-governmental organizations/enterprises";

10–12 September 1997 (New York, Department of Public Information/NGO) — Fiftieth annual conference on the theme "Building together".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

AIDE has collaborated with such specialized agencies as UNDP, UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In partnership with WHO, the AIDS Central Coordination Bureau and UNDP Zaire, AIDE organized a workshop in Kinshasa from 28 November to 2 December 1994 on caring for AIDS patients, and co-organized national hearings on AIDS prevention.

In the framework of the PEDDRO (Prevention, Education, Drugs) network, and in close collaboration with UNESCO, AIDE organized a programme on drug abuse prevention targeted to secondary-school students in Tunisia during the 1996–1997 school year.

Every year since 1996, AIDE has organized:

The International Conference against Racism, on 21 March;

The International Conference against Drugs, on 26 June;

The International Conference for Poverty Eradication, on 17 October; and

The International Conference against AIDS, on 1 December (since 1995).

Other activities

The Fédération des agences internationales pour le développement is actively involved in advancing the debates carried on by the United Nations system and participates in organizing activities reflecting the concerns of the United Nations system. Accordingly, it carries out action in the following fields:

Fighting poverty: Distribution of packages of food (381 tons) and clothing (89 tons), medicines (1,365 kg) and medical equipment (3,000 kg), educational books (1,305 kg) and educational tools (5,700 kg), and distribution of free meals (6,305);

Fighting racism: Holding of informational meetings (200), design and production of posters (110,000), magazines (45,000), brochures (450,000) and petitions (10,000) (in English, Spanish, Flemish, French and Italian);

Fighting AIDS: Holding of informational meetings (200) and showing of videos, design and production of posters (400,000), magazines (100,000) and brochures (600,000) (in different European and African languages), distribution of condoms (100,000);

Fighting drugs: Holding of informational meetings (100) and showing of videos, design and production of

posters (100,000), magazines (50,000) and brochures (200,000) (in different European and African languages).

Publications

Eight magazines on the overindebtedness of the third world, poverty and exclusion, AIDS and drugs, racism and human rights; 70 poster models and two videocassettes on AIDS and racism.

2. America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST)

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) is a private, non-profit organization promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa through education, information, and development assistance programmes. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AMIDEAST maintains a network of field offices in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen. AMIDEAST demonstrates its support for the work, purposes, and principles of the United Nations in the implementation of programmes that promote the development of local institutions. AMIDEAST's geographical representation has remained constant while its sources of funding are becoming more non-governmental.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

AMIDEAST/Lebanon has attended United Nations conferences and workshops over the past few years; AMIDEAST/Morocco attended a United Nations conference on rural education, and AMIDEAST/Washington staff attended numerous United Nations meetings both in New York and Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The AMIDEAST Director of Democratic Development met with the Civil Society Programme Director of UNIFEM in New York to present AMIDEAST's Global Women in Politics project. They discussed how they could complement each other and a brief follow-up occurred.

The UNDP Senior Programme Officer in Amman worked with AMIDEAST in the development of a political awareness-raising curriculum for the Global Women in Politics project.

Other relevant activities

(a) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions;

(b) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: AMIDEAST/Morocco's Country Director meets with the United Nations resident representative as well as the FNUAP to brief them on AMIDEAST and explore the potential for collaboration;

(c) Preparation of papers: AMIDEAST/Lebanon has submitted information to UNDP for its publication, *The Development Cooperation Report*;

(d) Other examples of consultative activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.: AMIDEAST/Egypt cooperated with the Ford Foundation to process participants to the Fourth World Conference on Women; AMIDEAST/Tunisia supported the Tunisian League for Human Rights through training in the United States on programming in the whole range of human rights programmes during 1996; AMIDEAST/West Bank-Gaza worked with UNDP to help strengthen the Palestinian Authority's institutions.

3. Association for Counselling, Organization, Research and Development (ACORD)

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Task and aims

The Association for Counselling, Organization, Research and Development (ACORD), a mixed-type NGO, has as its task to develop all kinds of ideas and technical means for protecting and improving the living conditions of individuals and families in developing countries, while respecting their culture, traditions and customs. Taking as its two parameters the socio-economic dimension and the health and social dimension, ACORD envisages a new type

of economic, health and social growth for the most disadvantaged countries. Basing its efforts on the three anchors of its action philosophy — analysis, aims, method — it seeks to achieve a multisectoral, broad-spectrum, integrated development appropriate to the populations concerned. ACORD defined health as a priority, focusing on the specific aspect of primary health care as a factor integral to an appropriate development process, and has proposed a new approach based on the creation of permanent, lasting development infrastructure as a complement to the existing socio-economic, health and social fabric. As a development NGO, ACORD has set itself the goal of improving the current development situation in the least developed countries by working in partnership with States concerned with their own development, while enabling the participation of at least 90 per cent of the local population in project execution and the strengthening, promotion and creation of local NGOs, as well as the initiation and/or revitalization of South-South cooperation.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its departments (conferences); participation in other United Nations conferences

International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt, September 1994): ACORD, maintaining that real self-development can be initiated if health development is implemented, and considering the growing and reciprocal links between population, economic growth and sustainable development, believes that the optimum conditions for local application of the 15 fundamental principles (contained in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development), combined with the eight basic components of primary health care, constitute the socio-economic, health and social context of real, sustainable human development, as outlined in its memorandum, "Action strategy for the well-being of the population of the developing countries".

World Summit for Social Development: ACORD was one of the eight NGOs chosen to participate in the events marking the World Summit. The President of ACORD represented the Association at that important event. Recalling the three major aims of the World Summit, and with a view to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, ACORD drafted a memorandum, "The right to development as a human right".

Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, Turkey, 1996): ACORD was represented by its President. Recalling that Habitat had made urbanization a priority in its international and national development programme with a view to promoting new policies and strategies in the field of urban management and housing construction, and in response to the aims formulated by Habitat, ACORD put forward its specific response in its report, "Action strategy for an innovative approach to the design and construction of human settlements".

Contribution by ACORD to the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights: Taking as its starting-point the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the realization of the right to development and the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right, and considering the goal of development to be the improvement of human capacities and the human condition, ACORD views the right to development in general, as well as the right to health and the right to work, as a basic human right. It drafted a memorandum addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights on the theme "The right to development as a human right". ACORD is included in the first NGO directory of the Centre for Human Rights, issued in 1995.

Response by ACORD to the World Bank proposal for partnership with NGOs: Welcoming the fact that the World Bank is endeavouring to collaborate more actively with NGOs in its field operations, research and analytical studies and consultation efforts, ACORD presented its experience of collaborating with an issue-oriented NGO in its report "Response to the World Bank's partnership with NGOs: Collaboration between an operational NGO and an issue-oriented NGO from the standpoint of analysis, aims, method. Response to the Group on Participation and NGOs, Department of Poverty Reduction and Social Policy".

Cooperation with the United Nations and its system of organizations: In preparing studies for the establishment of primary health-care centres and nutritional centres (Rwanda, Zaire, Comoros), and in its proposal for an African conference on the theme "Child health in the African family: a prerequisite for African development", ACORD defined itself as the meeting-point between the concerns of States concerned with their own development and the concerns of the United Nations and its system of organizations, by focusing on the optimum application at the local level of the guidelines formulated by WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, Habitat, UNHCR, and so on.

Other activities: On the occasion of its decennial report on activities (from 1984 to the present), addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the senior members of the departments and the specialized agencies concerned

with development questions and all African States concerned with their own development, ACORD drafted three memoranda: "Current development situation in the least developed countries", "Current development practices in the least developed countries", and "Reflections on the Rwandan genocide: An open letter".

At the end of a decade devoted to strengthening itself as a development NGO, ACORD now wishes to become operational in order to take up the challenges facing future generations. To this end, ACORD has decided to create a new type of solidarity fund for development, a fund created by ACORD for the execution of its projects in the field and for which ACORD is seeking a partnership with the States of the North, States concerned with their own development, civil society and the United Nations and its system of organizations.

4. International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM)

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

Introduction

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) brings together movements for the aid of the family from all around the world. It was founded experimentally in Caracas (Venezuela) on 7 September 1966. Its goals and purposes are to promote, encourage and help Christian family movements so that those organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Confederation shall support the expansion of the Christian family movement in those countries where it is established and will try to establish it where it does not exist.

Participation in United Nations meetings and conferences

The Confederation, as a member in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, has participated as follows: In November 1994, accredited participants attended a working day in Vienna with the Committee for the Family of the United Nations non-governmental organizations; in May 1995, the Confederation participated in a new working day of the same Committee. On previous dates members of the Confederation had actively participated in other working sessions with the Committee for the Family in Vienna, to prepare the World Forum to launch the International Year of the Family. For that work the Confederation was granted a plaque designating it as a United Nations Year of the Family patron. On 11–12 November 1996, the Confederation attended the sixth NGO international seminar with the topic "Integrating family in social progress and development".

The Confederation has also contributed to issues of *NGO International*, the newsletter of the NGO Committee for the Family, Vienna, especially on the subject of parental skills. In May 1996 and November 1996, Confederation members attended non-governmental organization meetings at the United Nations in Vienna.

Other activities

In March 1997, Confederation members attended the First World Congress of Families, held in Prague. It was an ecumenical meeting of people, with different ideas and religions, whose only common ground was the welfare of the family. The Confederation has proposed the formation of a forum of family movements in Europe.

Activities for couples: conducting engaged encounters and marriage preparation seminars; rectifying trial marriages; promoting natural family planning and responsible parenthood; marriage counselling.

Activities for the family: participating in family dialogue; providing family counselling; developing programmes for young families and middle-aged families; organizing family vacations; preparing television programmes on the family; publishing newsletters and other materials on family life; promoting the Pope's teachings on marriage and the family; giving aid to poor and needy families and marginal families.

Activities for youth: organizing encounters of sons and daughters and special programmes for youth; campaigning for sex education in schools; organizing classes and reunions for homeless children and juvenile delinquents; assisting at orphanages; providing shelter for children displaced by war; campaigning against the moral decadence of the youth, especially in sexual mores.

Activities for persons in difficult situations: counselling and forming support groups for solo parents, for mothers who are heads of families, for separated and divorced persons; helping couples and children of broken marriages and families with social problems; helping spouses of overseas workers; protecting abandoned women; providing a pregnancy crisis centre and championing the rights of the unborn; counselling and helping drug addicts,

HIV and AIDS patients, war victims, and refugees; working for CARITAS; organizing activities for leper families, visiting prisons, hospitals, homes for the aged and the handicapped among many others.

5. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA)

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

The objectives of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) are to reduce and prevent the harmful effects resulting from the use of illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, as well as gambling. It organizes international conferences, symposia and expert groups. It conducts research projects. It holds training programmes for health and other professionals on drug and alcohol-related problems, particularly in developing countries. The organization, through its quarterly newsletter, also disseminates updated information on issues concerning drug abuse policies, prevention and treatment programmes and research findings and serves as a network for national non-governmental organizations all over the world.

During the period under review the organization's membership expanded, especially in Eastern and Central European countries, in Africa, in the Indian subcontinent and in the Caribbean region. Membership is now composed of some 500 national organizations in 90 countries.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

ICAA participated regularly at the annual sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs where the representatives of the organization made oral/written statements each year of the period under review. These statements reflected the activities of ICAA supportive of various resolutions of the Commission, in particular in the field of reduction of demand for illicit drugs. ICAA cooperated in 1997 with the United Nations Focal Point on Tobacco or Health in the round table on social and economic aspects of reduction of tobacco smoking by the use of alternative nicotine delivery systems.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Consultations with UNDCP were increased, particularly in connection with preparations for the 1994 NGO Forum in Bangkok, as well as for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (New York, 1998).

In 1995, ICAA cooperated with the Programme on Substance Abuse of WHO and the International Organization of Good Templars on the project Strategic Planning on Substance Abuse in South Africa.

Occasional consultations were held with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. ICAA also provided experts for various international meetings and expert groups arranged by specialized agencies, such as WHO and ILO. Contact was made with the PEDRO project of UNESCO during the years under review.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions: ICAA made several recommendations to its members, urging them to implement, on regional and national levels, various resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning drug demand reduction. Through its widely circulated quarterly newsletter, *ICAA News*, regular reports were published on the meetings of UNDCP and on numerous meetings of the specialized agencies.

Consultations with the NGO units in Vienna, Geneva and New York.

Preparation of papers and other materials at the request of UNDCP, including ICAA's comments on the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

ICAA has regularly submitted reports of its activities, on request, to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as comments on the draft declaration on drug demand reduction.

UNDCP representatives participated regularly in ICAA's international meetings: the ICAA International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Prague, Czech Republic, 1994, and Trieste, Italy, 1995); the ICAA International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (San Diego, United States, 1995); the ICAA International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Dependencies (Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1996, and Cairo, Egypt, 1997).

During the years under review, ICAA also played an important role in the activities of the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs at the United Nations Office in Vienna and the NGO Committee on Substance Abuse at the United Nations in New York.

6. International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR)

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, IFHR has taken on the task of ensuring its practical implementation. Thus, during the past 50 years in which it has enjoyed the status of a non-governmental organization accredited to the United Nations in particular, IFHR has significantly expanded its activities, sending numerous missions to many countries and, in recent years, systematizing its legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners, as well as actions carried out through international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held at Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was substantially enlarged; it now comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 correspondents in 86 countries.

Among the themes that have constituted the Federation's action priorities during the period under review and that have guided its activities within United Nations bodies are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as basic human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York make it possible to conduct daily monitoring of its activities in relation to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs.

With regard to the organs and procedures of the United Nations, the Federation's activities during the period under review (1994–1997) can be summarized as follows.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fiftieth to fifty-third sessions) and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (forty-sixth to forty-ninth sessions), and in the working groups established by those bodies. At those sessions the IFHR delegation was composed mainly of representatives of its member organizations. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national organizations for the defence of human rights to the deliberations of these bodies.

The sessions that were held during the period under review constituted important information and training opportunities for the officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are its agents in the field. Thus, it also proved possible to organize training seminars. These seminars are aimed at promoting dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States, and developing optimum cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the organs and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to the studies developed by the United Nations in the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly with regard to the proposed establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system and the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. IFHR therefore participated in the seminar held in Santiago, Chile, on the establishment of a permanent forum, the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the sessions of the Commission's working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

Moreover, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities by presenting mainly written statements and a number of oral statements on various agenda items, always with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies. The reports on IFHR activities during the sessions of the two organs are available from the NGO Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

Participation in sessions of treaty bodies

IFHR participated in sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During the sessions, it furnished the expert members of those bodies with information that might be useful to them in the consideration of periodic reports by States. At some sessions, IFHR coordinated the movements of representatives of its member organizations. At several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it presented written and oral statements.

Cooperation with the programmes and organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies

IFHR is now a non-governmental organization in official consultative status with UNESCO. In that capacity, during the period under review, IFHR took part in the preparations for and holding of the Special Conference of NGOs.

In addition, IFHR is on the ILO special list of NGOs. In that capacity, it participates in the International Labour Conference each year.

Other activities

Actions on behalf of the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms established by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and country special rapporteurs, by transmitting to them information useful in the performance of their mandates (IFHR mission reports, reports of its member organizations, and so on) and complaints of human rights violations.

Each year IFHR transmitted communications under the procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). IFHR participated in the legislative working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group charged with elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the deliberations of the Working Group of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Moreover, it responded to the appeal launched by the Working Group and contacted its 105 affiliates around the world to urge them to contribute to the work of the fourth session of that body, held in May 1998, on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Commission and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

IFHR contributed to the preparation, organization and follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995).

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR held several meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It transmitted information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Preparation of documents at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR transmitted information on various themes at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Moreover, IFHR provided information on a regular basis to be used in various studies prepared by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

7. International Federation of Resistance Movements

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

The International Federation of Resistance Movements (FIR) comprises 84 national organizations of former resistance fighters and victims of fascism in the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.

FIR was founded in Vienna in 1951. Its aims and tasks, confirmed at each of its congresses, were defined in article IV of its charter, which states, *inter alia*:

"To unite its members in peace, as they were in combat in the Resistance, so as to ensure independence for their nations and liberty and peace in the world;

"To campaign actively to defend and ensure human freedom and dignity, against all racial, political, philosophical or religious discrimination, and against the rebirth of fascism and nazism in all their forms;

"To help to achieve the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, establish friendly and peaceful relations between peoples, develop cultural exchanges between nations and tighten the bonds of fraternity and solidarity among resistance fighters in all countries."

FIR has a permanent representative to the special NGO committees for human rights and disarmament at Geneva (Mr. Louis Mouchet), the UNESCO NGO Standing Committee (Mr. Roger Maria) and the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (Mr. François Amoudruz). Its representatives participate regularly in the conferences of NGOs held at Geneva, Paris and Strasbourg.

1994

30–31 May: Special NGO Committee for Disarmament seminar.

1 September: Meeting of the Special NGO Committee for Human Rights Organizations (first meeting of NGOs interested in preparing for the World Summit for Social Development, convened by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO)). Likewise, a general NGO consultation on racism, xenophobia, ethnic and racial intolerance and the resulting conflicts, organized by the Non-Governmental Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Decolonization in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

The FIR permanent representative to UNESCO presented the views of the International Federation at meetings of the UNESCO/NGO joint working group on education for human rights, tolerance, democracy and peace, and at the meeting of the UNESCO NGO Standing Committee.

1995

31 July and 18–21 October: Participation in the meeting of the Special NGO Committee for Human Rights (Geneva).

1996

June: Participation in the twenty-fifth UNESCO/NGO Conference in Paris.

1997

20 February: In relation to the question of UNESCO/NGO cooperation, the FIR representative sent a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, informing him that "FIR is in fact the only NGO which makes available to UNESCO the personal views of veterans, former resistance fighters and former deportees to the Nazi camps".

From 3 to 5 November, the FIR representative participated in the CONGO General Assembly held at Geneva.

On 21 November, the FIR representative attended the Special Conference of NGOs held at UNESCO headquarters. During this meeting, he stressed that "FIR is fully resolved to continue its participation in a fruitful cooperation".

On 28 October 1997, the FIR representative took part in the meeting of the French Circle for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

1994

On 19 March, the FIR Bureau held a meeting in Vienna, at the conclusion of which it adopted the following documents: "The dialogue between Israel and the PLO should continue"; "Ending the bloody conflict in the former Yugoslavia"; "In favour of respect for human rights and historical truth"; and a declaration, "On the eve of the elections to the European Parliament".

From 21 to 24 October, FIR participated in the sponsorship committee for the international symposium "Europe against discrimination, for democracy and freedom", held at Strasbourg.

1995

The FIR Bureau met in Berlin on 29 April against the backdrop of the fiftieth anniversary of the victory over Hitler's fascism. Upon the conclusion of their work, the participants adopted a document entitled "Building a new world in peace and freedom".

1996

On 22 and 23 June, the twelfth statutory Congress of FIR was held at Vienna. It adopted several important documents, including: "European Year against Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism", in which FIR called on its

national associations to carry out activities with other democratic forces in support of the European Year against Racism; "For the protection of national minorities"; "For the prohibition of anti-personnel land mines".

All the documents adopted by the policy-making bodies of FIR are in keeping with the spirit guiding the principles of the United Nations, to which FIR has always been committed.